

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/804,012

Examiner

Julian Mercado

Applicant(s)

BENNETT ET AL

Art Unit

1745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 1-16-04.
2. The allowed claim(s) are 1-4, 12-27, and 29.
3. The drawings filed on 12 March 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) Noneof the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

- Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Other

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

This Office action is responsive to applicant's amendment filed January 16, 2004.

Per applicant's amendment, claims 5-11 have been canceled.

Claims 1-4, 12-27 and 29 remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is deemed moot in view of applicant's cancellation of this claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and 103

The following prior art ground of rejections are deemed moot in view of applicant's cancellation of claims 5-11 as applicable within each ground of rejection:

- a. the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Sauer et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,054,726).
- b. the rejection of claims 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Mansfield, Jr. et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,279,905).
- c. the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Sauer et al. and Bennett (U.S. Pat. 5,846,672).
- d. the rejection of claims 6, 8, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Mansfield, Jr. et al. and Bennett

e. the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Mansfield, Jr. et al.,
Bennett and Oltman et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,567,538).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 12-27 and 29 are allowed for the reasons set forth in prior Office action mailed August 4, 2003.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian Mercado whose telephone number is (571) 272-1289. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick J. Ryan, can be reached on (571) 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

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